

United Nations Statistics Division

1. Demographic and social statistics (UN Statistics Division)

1.1 Population and migration (UN Statistics Division)

Demographic Yearbook

- Continue to compile and disseminate demographic statistics in the Demographic Yearbook, website and CD-Rom.
- Further develop the storage and retrieval system for maintaining the demographic database.
- The UNSD coordinates the collection of demographic statistics with the WHO, EUROSTAT, ILO and the Economic Commission for Europe in order to minimize the reporting burden on the national statistical services and to provide as wide a range of users as possible with access to demographic statistics shown in international statistical publications including the United Nations Demographic Yearbook.

Migration Statistics

- Finalize technical report on measuring international migration through censuses and sample surveys.
- Develop case study reports on models for estimating migration flows and stock from various sources.
- Conduct training workshop on measuring international migration through population censuses.
- Migrant stock data that were collected through the Demographic Yearbook (DYB) Population Census Questionnaires are now available at the UNSD website.
- Revise the DYB questionnaire for collecting data on international migrant flows and restart the annual data collection thereafter.

1.4 Health (UN Statistics Division)

Disability Statistics

Ongoing methodological work:

- Development of methods to improve the collection and compilation of disability statistics through surveys and censuses. In particular, UNSD worked with the Washington Group on Disability Statistics in the developing of a small set of general disability measures, suitable for use in censuses.
- Currently involved in the development of an expanded set of measures suited for use in sample-based national surveys, or other statistical formats. See <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/methods/citygroup/washington.htm> for more information.

Data collection:

- The questionnaire on Human Functioning and Disability statistics was sent to countries for completion as part of the regular DYB data collection system. The results have since been analysed.
- Disability statistics has been collected on ad hoc basis and stored in the Disability Statistics database version 2 (DISTAT-2). Excerpts from DISTAT-2 were posted on the internet in mid-2001. See: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sconcerns/disability/> for more information.
- Questions on disability, asked in censuses worldwide from 1995 to 2004 have been posted on the UNSD website. See <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sconcerns/disability/disabmethods.aspx>

1.7 Human settlements and housing (UN Statistics Division)

Demographic Yearbook

Ongoing work:

- UNSD has developed a new questionnaire on housing statistics. The questionnaire was circulated to countries with other census questionnaires in spring 2009 and in 2010 (for countries that did not reply the first time). The validation of data will be completed by end of 2010 and the first tabulations with results will be posted in the first quarter of 2011. The submission of the complete Compendium of Housing Statistics for printing is expected by mid-2011.

1.11 Time use (UN Statistics Division)

Time-use statistics

- A Guide to producing statistics on time-use: Measuring Paid and Unpaid work, was published in 2005.
- Time-use statistics website (containing methods, publications and meeting documents) is regularly updated to include experiences of countries that have recently conducted time-use surveys. See: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sconcerns/tuse/>
- Time-use statistics showing sex differences in the use of time is compiled and presented in the in The World's Women 2010: Trends and Statistics, launched in October 2010.
- The detailed structure and explanatory notes for the UN Trial International Classification of Activities for Time-use Statistics (ICATUS) are available for comments on the following web site: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/cr/registry/regcst.asp?Cl=231&Lg=1>
- The finalization of the UN Trial International Classification of Activities for Time-use Statistics (ICATUS) is expected in 2011.

2. Economic Statistics (UN Statistics Division)

2.2 Economic accounts (UN Statistics Division)

National Accounts

- Contributes as a member of the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on National Accounts (ISWGNA) to the international coordination, development and updating of the System of National Accounts (SNA), the internationally accepted statistical standard of the national accounts. The System of National Accounts 2008 (2008 SNA) is the latest version of the SNA.
- Serves as the Secretariat to the ISWGNA by providing logistical and administrative support to the research and implementation program of the ISWGNA and the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts (AEG).
- Administers and maintains the website of the ISWGNA, which provides a platform for coordination and monitoring of the research and implementation programme for the SNA. It provides links to the work programs of the ISWGNA members and the Regional Commissions and the progress on the research agenda of the SNA including the activities of the AEG. The website is available at: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/nationalaccount/default.asp>
- Drafts, publishes and disseminates the bi-annual ISWGNA newsletter "SNA News and Notes" in cooperation with the members of the ISWGNA. The newsletter contains information on developments in research issues relevant for the SNA and related international standards; clarifications, interpretations and changes in the SNA; country experiences in the SNA implementation as well as publications, meetings and seminars and other relevant information.
- Drafts in collaboration with the ISWGNA members, the annual ISWGNA report to the Statistical Commission which sets out the strategy and status of progress of statistical programme for the SNA in part based on country assessments of their scope and detail of implementation of the accounts of the SNA and their conceptual compliance with the SNA recommendations.
- Undertakes methodological research on issues on the international research agenda for the SNA in collaboration with the ISWGNA with a present priority on FISIM, globalisation-related issues and emissions permits.
- Supports the implementation programme of the 2008 SNA by developing and updating supporting normative standards, training material and compilation guidance for the implementation of national accounts and supporting economic statistics.
- Delivers a statistical capacity building program for the implementation of the 2008 SNA and supporting statistics through a series of regional and interregional workshops and seminar in collaboration with the Regional Commissions and regional agencies and through a limited number of individual country technical assistance missions.
- Collects and disseminates official annual national accounts statistics from countries and publishes them in the National Accounts Statistics: Main Aggregates and Detailed Tables. The data are also available electronically through the UNdata website at <http://data.un.org/>
- Prepares national accounts estimates to complement the official national accounts statistics from countries to obtain consistent and complete time series and publishes them in the National Accounts Statistics: Analysis of Main Aggregates.
- Maintains the National Accounts Main Aggregates Database which contains a complete and consistent set of time series from 1970 onwards of main national accounts aggregates and derived analytical indicators and ratios for more than 200 countries and territories. These data are available on the web at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/snaama/Introduction.asp>
- Provides services to the Committee for Contributions of the United Nations through research on the methodology of the scale of assessment (i.e. contributions to the United Nations by Member States), and the actual calculation of the scale of assessment. This also includes the provision of services to the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations in respect to the scale of assessment.

2.3 Business statistics (UN Statistics Division)

Industrial Statistics

Ongoing activities:

- UNSD continues the collection, processing and dissemination of global industrial commodity production statistics and maintains the industrial commodity statistics database containing data for about 200 countries and areas and more than 600 commodities. Production data is being provided in physical quantities and monetary values.
- UNSD continues compilation and dissemination of Index Numbers of Industrial Production for countries, geographic regions and the world;
- Industrial statistics are published in UNSD's Industrial Commodity Statistics Yearbook, in the UN Statistical Yearbook and in the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics. Industrial Commodity Statistics datasets and the General Industrial Statistics Dataset are available in electronic format.

New activities for 2011:

- Further development of the industry statistics web-site, especially with respect to short-term indicators.
- Investigation of possibilities of data transfer from EUROSTAT on industrial commodity production statistics and index of industrial production to avoid duplications in data collection;
- Conduct of regional workshops on manufacturing statistics.

Distributive Trade Statistics

Priority objectives:

- Implementation of International Recommendations on Distributive Trade Statistics.

Ongoing activities:

- Maintenance of the UNSD website on distributive trade statistics, including provision of a handbook on good practices in compilation of distributive trade indices.
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2.4 Sectoral statistics (UN Statistics Division)

2.4.2 Energy (UN Statistics Division)

Energy Statistics

Ongoing work:

- UNSD continues to maintain the most comprehensive database of worldwide energy statistics (production, trade, stock changes, bunkers and consumption) covering more than 200 countries and areas and time series from 1950;
- UNSD continues to publish the Energy Statistics Yearbook and the Energy Balances and Electricity Profiles on an annual basis;
- Data sharing arrangements between UNSD and IEA/OECD continue to reduce the data collection burden.

Activities for 2011:

- Preparation of the Energy Statistics Compilers Manual (ESCM) which provides practical guidance in the implementation of IRES, including collection of country practices;
- Organization of training workshops for developing countries;
- Update and improvement of the UN Energy Statistics Database, including collection, processing and dissemination arrangements for both data and metadata according to the recommendations provided in IRES;
- Work on improving transparency of oil statistics in collaboration with other international organizations active in this area (APEREC, Eurostat, IAE/OECD, OLADE, OPEC and IEFS) through the Joint Oil Data Initiative (JODI);
- Further development of the energy statistics web-site.

2.4.4 Transport (UN Statistics Division)

Ongoing work:

Compilation of statistical series on international maritime transport and registration of new motor vehicles for dissemination in the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics (MBS) and the MBS Online; compilation of statistical series on civil aviation for dissemination in both the MBS and the UN Statistical Yearbook.

2.6 International trade and balance of payments (UN Statistics Division)

International Merchandise Trade

Priority objectives:

- Production of the Compilers Manual of the revised International Merchandise Trade Statistics: Concepts and Definitions 2010 including a worldwide consultation on key issues;
- Major upgrade of the UN Comtrade database, including the integration of monthly (quarterly data).

Ongoing work:

- Organization of a worldwide consultation on the key issues relevant to the Compilers Manual for IMTS 2010; done in cooperation with the UN Expert Group on IMTS and the Interagency Task Force on IMTS;
- Assisting developing countries in improving compilation practices and in the implementation of the new international recommendations;
- Continuation of work on UN COMTRADE to provide high quality data and efficient public, governmental and international agency access;
- Production of numerous ongoing analytical outputs, such as the trade statistics yearbook;
- Coordination of international statistical work in the field of trade statistics (in co-operation with EUROSTAT, OECD, UNCTAD, FAO, WTO, WCO, the UN Regional Commissions and other international and regional organizations).

International Trade in Services

Priority objectives:

- Development of on-line Compilation Guidance for the revised Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services 2010;
- Production of the CG for IRTS 2008 in close cooperation with UNWTO;
- Further development of the UN database on international trade in services (UN ServiceTrade).

Ongoing and new activities:

- Contribute to the development of compilation guide for MSITS 2010 as a member of the Interagency Task-Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services;
 - Contribute to the drafting of the compilation guide for IRTS 2008;
 - Organization of an expert group meeting to approve the draft compilation guide for IRTS 2008;
 - Organization of workshops on statistics of international trade in services for developing and transitional countries;
 - Continuation of data collection activities on a worldwide basis in cooperation with other involved international organizations;
 - Supporting the work of the Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services, including publishing the Newsletter of the Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services and maintaining its website.
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3. Environment and multi-domain statistics (UN Statistics Division)

3.1 Environment (UN Statistics Division)

Environmental Statistics

Overall goal:

Improvement of the coverage, quality, comparability and timeliness of environmental data through:

- Regular revision and conduct of the UNSD/UNEP biennial Questionnaire on Environment Statistics;
- Development of methodological manuals for data compilation;
- Providing training and advisory services to countries and regions, and
- Harmonizing international data collection and dissemination efforts through the Intersecretariat Working Group on Environment Statistics (IWG-ENV).

Ongoing work:

- Finalization of the 2010 data collection cycle;
- Data collection and compilation guidance for water statistics;
- Regular publication of the ENVSTAT Newsletter and maintenance of the Environment Statistics website continues; (<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/environment/default.htm>)
- Finalization of the revision of the Glossary of Environment Statistics and the publication of the revised Glossary under the aegis of the IWG-ENV;
- Act as Secretariat to the Intersecretariat Working Group on Environment Statistics;
- Preparation for regional training workshops and capacity building projects.

New activities:

- Revise the UN Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (FDES);
- Develop a core set of environment statistics;
- Organize an Expert Group on Environment Statistics to review the UN FDES and the core set of statistics.

Environmental Accounts

On-going methodological work:

- Revision of the SEEA - manage the website "Towards the revised SEEA", manage the global consultation on the outcome papers for the issues in the issue list, provide Secretariat to the UNCEEA and its Bureau, manage the trust fund on the Revision of the SEEA, member of the editorial board, member of the London Group on Environmental Accounting, contribute to the technical discussion by drafting papers;
- Preparation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting for Energy.

New methodological work:

- Together with the World Bank and EEA, lead the work on the development of a list of issues for Volume 2 on Ecosystem Accounting.

Other activities:

- Archive of publications on environmental-economic accounting, including country practices;
- SEEA News and Notes;
- Implementation of the SEEA-Water in countries.

UNCEEA

• The UN Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (UNCEEA) was established by the UN Statistical Commission at its 36th session in March 2005. The mandate of the Committee is to (a) provide strategic vision, direction and coordination to mainstream environmental-economic accounting and supporting statistics in national, regional and international statistical systems; (b) develop normative international statistical standards and supporting methodological documents on environmental-economic accounting and supporting statistics; (c) promote the development of databases at international, regional and national level on environmental-economic accounting and supporting statistics; (d) promote the implementation of international statistical standards of environmental-economic accounting and supporting statistics in countries; and (e) promote the use of environmental-economic accounting and supporting statistics in scientific and policymaking communities.

Priority objectives:

The highest priority in the work programme of the UNCEEA is the revision of the SEEA and its elevation to an international statistical standard. The areas of work of the Committee of Experts are: (a) coordination: to foster collaboration, integration and complementarity of programmes; (b) methodological development for normative statistical standards and other research: to oversee development of standards and other methodological documents; (c) development of databases: to ensure databases are based on international statistical standards and international recommendations; (d) implementation and statistical capacity building: to develop concerted implementation strategies encompassing relevant supporting statistics and their integration in the SEEA; (e) promotion: to mainstream the environmental-economic accounting and relevant supporting statistics in the statistical systems; and (f) formulation of a statistical response on emerging policy issues: to engage prominently in the international agenda in articulating a coordinated statistical response, for example on climate change, sustainability and natural resources management.

On-going methodological work:

- Revision of the SEEA - Volume 1, the statistical standard including related applications, is expected to be submitted to the UN Statistical Commission for adoption in 2012 as international statistical standard. Volume 2 and Volume 3 are expected to be submitted to the UNSC for endorsement.
- The Committee has organized during its meetings discussions on different policy themes including climate change, green economy, resource productivity and efficiency, economics of ecosystem services and water communities.
- The Committee is developing "glossy publications" on sustainable consumption and production/green economy, resource management (example of water); and climate change.
- To share best-practices, a web-based knowledge base (archive) platform has been set-up. It features events and activities in the field of environmental-economic accounting and a searchable archive of publications.

Meetings:

The UNCEEA meets once a year; the Bureau meets on a regular basis by teleconference. More information can be found at the UNCEEA website: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/envaccounting/ceea/>

3.2 Regional and small area statistics (UN Statistics Division)

City Statistics

- Dissemination of data on cities population through the website http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/dyb/City_Page.htm and through UN Data.

3.3 Multi-domain statistics and indicators (UN Statistics Division)

Infrastructure Indicators

Ongoing work:

The World Bank's Development Data Group (DECDG) along with the Sustainable Development Vice-Presidency and the various sector and regional offices are developing a core set of infrastructure indicators and systematic database covering the energy, water & sanitation, transport, and ICT sectors which will be used to monitor project, country, and global policies & performance. Country tables on ICT, sourced mainly from the ITU, can be accessed from the World Bank's external Data site.

See also: <http://www.worldbank.org/data/countrydata/countrydata.html>

3.3.1 Living conditions, poverty and cross-cutting social issues (UN Statistics Division)

Poverty Statistics

- UNSD continues its work of reviewing methodologies used by countries in poverty mapping, highlighting good practices.

Social Statistics

- UNSD convened an expert group meeting in September 2008 on the scope and content of social statistics, with the aim of seeking inputs towards an international action plan to improve social statistics. See http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/egm/social_stat_2008.htm

- UNSD serves as the secretariat for the Friends of the Chair of the United Nations Statistical Commission on Statistical Indicators on Violence against Women. The first report will be submitted to the 40th session of the United Nations Statistical Commission in February 2009.

Social Indicators

- UNSD maintains a website of Social Indicators which is updated twice a year:

See also: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/methods/poverty/default.htm>.

Gender Statistics

- Following the recommendations of the 2006 Inter-Agency and Expert Group Meeting on Gender Statistics (IAEG-GS), the Division has launched a Global Programme on Gender Statistics to promote advances in gender statistics at the global, regional and national levels through: 1) the strengthening of the collaboration among stakeholders, 2) the development and implementation of training activities and 3) the dissemination of selected gender statistics and indicators in key areas of concern. As part of the Programme, the Division, in collaboration with various partners conducted the following activities:

- Inter-regional workshop on the Production of Gender Statistics, held in New Delhi, India, 6-10 August 2007.

See: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/wshops/India%20Aug07/DOCLIST.htm>

- Global Forum on Gender Statistics, held in Rome, Italy, 10-12 December 2007.

See: http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/wshops/Gender_Statistics_10Dec07_Rome/default.htm

- Second annual meeting of the IAEG-GS, held in Rome, Italy, 13 December 2007.

See: http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/wshops/Gender_Statistics_10Dec07_Rome/default.htm

- Establishment of two advisory groups to provide guidance to UNSD on 1) gender statistics training and curricula development and 2) global gender indicators database.

- Development and launch of Gender Info 2007 -a global database of gender statistics and indicators in key areas of concern.

See: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/genderinfo/default.htm>

- A survey of gender statistics activities and training needs was conducted in 2008 among National Statistical Offices and relevant organizations at the regional and global levels. The aim was to obtain information in order to better tailor UNSD's upcoming activities within the Global Programme on Gender Statistics. The results of the survey are being processed and analyzed, and a report completed in 2009.

- UNSD continues to disseminate basic gender statistics and indicators through its website: "Statistics and indicators on Women and Men" which is updated semi-annually. See <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/indwmm>

- The second Global Forum on Gender Statistics was held from 26-28 January 2009 in Accra, Ghana.

- The third annual meeting of the IAEG-GS was held on 29 January 2009 in Accra, Ghana.

- The third Global Forum on gender Statistics was held in Manila, Philippines, from 11-13 October 2010.

See: http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/wshops/Philippines_Globalforum_Oct2010/default.htm.

- The fourth meeting of the IAEG0GS was held in Manila, Philippines, on 14 October 2010.

Planned meetings:

- The next meeting of the IAEG-GS and Global Forum on Gender Statistics are tentatively scheduled to take place in Jordan at the end of 2011.

3.4 Yearbooks and similar compendia (UN Statistics Division)

Compendia

- Brings together selected economic, social and environmental data produced by UNSD, other UN offices and agencies, international, national and specialized organizations for dissemination in the Statistical Yearbook (print), Monthly Bulletin of Statistics (print and Internet), World Statistics Pocketbook (print) and UNdata.

Demographic Yearbook

- UNSD will continue to develop a well-structured web-site to disseminate metadata and demographic and social statistics;
- Implement conclusions and recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting to Review the United Nations Demographic Yearbook system: for details please see http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/egm/DYB_1103/docs/no_L4.pdf. See also: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/default.htm>; in particular revise questionnaires to lessen response burden.

4. Methodology of data collection, processing, dissemination and analysis (UN Statistics Division)

4.1 Metadata (UN Statistics Division)

Sources and Definitions

- Continues to develop comprehensive standardized metadata on sources and definitions for the Millennium Development Goals Indicators database, to provide user-friendly public and agency access to authoritative metadata on sources and definitions for international statistics, available at: <http://mdgs.un.org>.
- UNSD is finalizing the second edition of the Handbook on MDG Indicators, in both printed version and electronic version, in a wiki-type application. (See: <http://mdgs.un.org>).

4.2 Classifications (UN Statistics Division)

International economic and social classifications

Ongoing activities:

- UNSD continues to maintain the Classifications Hotline which provides assistance to national statistical offices and others with regard to interpretation, structure and use of ISIC, CPC and the Classifications of Expenditure According to Purpose;
- UNSD continues to maintain the UN Classifications Website and Registry;
- UNSD continues the publication of a Classifications Newsletter.

Activities for 2011:

- Development of complimentary tools and documentation for the revised classifications, including alphabetical indexes and correspondences to other versions of the classifications as well as to other activity and product classifications such as NACE, CPA, PRODCOM and HS;
- Preparation of the Companion Guide to ISIC and CPC;
- Preparation of other training materials to facilitate the implementation and use of ISIC and CPC;
- Setup of an open discussion forum, supported by members of the Expert Group on International Economic and Social Classifications supporting the implementation of the ISIC and CPC;
- Hosting of an Expert Group meeting on classifications.

4.3 Data sources (UN Statistics Division)

4.3.1 Population and housing censuses, registers of population, dwellings and buildings (UN Statistics Division)

2010 Programme on Population and Housing Censuses

- Serving as the Secretariat of the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses, continued to coordinate global and regional activities aimed at achieving the goal of the 2010 World Programme to ensure that all countries and areas conduct a population and housing census at least once in the period 2005-2014.
- In general, UNSD will continue updating the 2010 world programme resource center with information about census taking worldwide and technical documentation on census good practices, and prepare e-training materials based on the 2007 -2008 workshops on census cartography and the use of GIS. A free software, CensusInfo, will be developed with DevInfo, to help countries disseminate their census results.

Methodological work:

- Finalized the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Rev. 2 and published it in print form in 2008 and on the web.
- Organized two Expert Group Meetings in New York: the first on Contemporary Practices in Census Mapping and Use of Geographical Information Systems , 29 May- 1 June 2007, and the second on the revision of the Handbook on GIS and Digital Mapping, 7-10 April 2008.
- Organized six sub-regional workshops on census management and mapping with GIS in 2007 and 2008 (2 in Africa, 1 each for the SPC, ESCAP, Caribbean and Latin America regions).
- Organized four regional workshops on data processing (data capture, data editing and quality assurance in 2008 (2 in Africa, 1 each for the ESCWA and ESCAP regions).
- Developed the 2010 Census Knowledge Base - <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/censuskb/>
- Developed a website for the 2010 World Population and Housing Census Programme http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sources/census/2010_PHC/default.htm
- Finalized the revision of the Handbook on GIS and Digital Mapping. Editing is in progress on the "Handbook on Geospatial Infrastructure in support of census activities".

- Work is in progress on handbooks for census reports and data editing.
- UNSD is finalizing the Handbook on Measuring the Economically Active Population and Related Characteristics in Population Censuses, in collaboration with the ILO, for release in 2009. **4.3.2 Business and agricultural censuses and registers (UN Statistics Division)**
Economic Censuses and Surveys

Priority objectives:

- Compilation of country practices in economic censuses and surveys; the work will be done in cooperation with UNECE and other regional commissions.

Ongoing work:

- Consultations with developing and transitional countries on economic censuses and surveys in order to begin preparation of a report on good practices in this area.

Statistical Business Register

Priority objectives:

- Compilation of country practices in establishing, maintenance and use statistical business register; the work will be done in cooperation with UNECE and other regional commissions.

Ongoing work:

- Consultations with developing and transitional countries on use of administrative data and on statistical business register in order to begin preparation of a report on good practices in this area. **4.3.5 Other administrative and non-survey sources (UN Statistics Division)**

Civil registration and vital statistics

Ongoing methodological work:

Disseminate widely and systematically the handbook series on the development and maintenance of civil registration and vital statistics systems. The following publications have been issued since 1998:

- Handbook on the collection of Fertility and mortality Data, Sales No. 03.XVII.11, United Nations, New York, 2003;
- Handbook on Training in Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems, Sales No. E.02.XVII.10, United Nations, New York, 2002;
- Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System Revision 2, Sales No. E. 01.XVII.10, United Nations, New York, 2001;
- Handbook on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems: Management, Operation and Maintenance, Sales No. E.98.XVII.11, United Nations, New York, 1998;
- Handbook on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems: Preparation of a Legal Framework, Sales No. E. 98.XVII.7, United Nations, New York, 1998;
- Handbook on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems: Developing Information, Education and Communication, Sales No. E.98.XVII.4, United Nations, New York, 1998;
- Handbook on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems: Policies and Protocols for the Release and Archiving of Individual Records, Sales No. E.98.XVII.6, United Nations, New York, 1998;
- Handbook on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems: Computerization, Sales No. E.98.XVII.10, United Nations, New York, 1998.

Priority objectives:

Improve the coverage of vital registration systems and the capacity of countries to provide vital statistics from registration systems.

New activities:

UNSD plans to continue to conduct workshops on vital statistics data collection as an integrated activity of population and housing censuses programme. A knowledge base will be developed to disseminate information on national experiences.

4.5 Dissemination, data warehousing (UN Statistics Division)

Dissemination

- Maintains Internet access systems for its databases in international trade and national accounts, to provide more efficient public, governmental and international agency access;
- Maintains processing systems and is preparing Internet access systems for its databases in energy, environment and industrial commodities to provide more efficient public, governmental and international agency access;
- Maintains MDG Indicators Database, including detailed cell-level and indicator-level metadata and other reference material for use by the general public and government agencies who need references for their national MDG monitoring exercise;
- Continuation of work on UNdata under the project "Statistics as a Public Good". Providing free access to UN-System data will result in an increase in the dissemination, use and understanding of global statistics. Enhancement of the data and metadata presentation and the capability to search and browse several databases using one easy-to-use interface in UNdata are some of the features that have been introduced.

5. Strategic and managerial issues of official statistics (UN Statistics Division)

5.5 Technological resources (including standards for electronic data exchange and data sharing) (UN Statistics Division)

SDMX

- Collaborates with IMF, Eurostat, BIS, OECD and World Bank on the development of XML data and metadata exchange standards ;
- UNSD has fully developed data structure for MDG Indicators, now being used for data and metadata exchange among some of the agencies involved in the MDG monitoring. Training is also being provided to some groups of countries who have expressed the interest in adopting the platform for MDG data exchange.

5.6 Co-ordination of international statistical work (UN Statistics Division)

Secretariat to the UN Statistical Commission and the Committee on Coordination of Statistical Activities

• Coordination of intergovernmental and inter-agency meetings in statistics, serving as secretariat to the UN Statistical Commission and the Committee on Coordination of Statistical Activities. See also: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/commission.htm> and http://unstats.un.org/unsd/workpartner_ccsa.htm

Facilitator of City Groups

• UNSD is facilitating the work of so-called 'city groups', in order to address issues identified by the Statistical Commission as critical problems. UNSD will continue to encourage countries to actively participate in the discussions of the various groups. It will also disseminate information on the groups and their activities widely. Detailed information on the groups and their activities is available at UN Web page. See also: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/methods/citygroup/index.htm>

5.7 Technical cooperation and capacity building programmes (UN Statistics Division)

Objective

The UN Statistics Division's objective is to support national efforts in building and strengthening national statistical capacity of developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, and of countries with economies in transition to produce reliable and timely statistics and indicators for national policymakers and for other users at the national and international levels.

Strategy

To meet the overall objective, UN Statistics Division's capacity building programme consists of providing advisory services, conducting workshops, organizing study tours, and making available statistical toolkits in three subject domains supplemented by activities related to the MDG indicators. These domains are i) national statistical system, ii) population censuses and social statistics, and iii) national accounts, basic economic statistics, environment statistics, and environmental-economic accounting frameworks. The first domain covers activities directly related to the organization of national statistical systems, such as the building of better institutional arrangements, improved legal frameworks, better organizational structure and better management of human resources. The other two subject domains are very broadly defined to cover together most substantive areas in statistics.

Ongoing work

The main task within the domain of population censuses and social statistics currently and for the next two years is to assist Member States in the implementation of the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses to be undertaken during 2005-2014. The goal of the 2010 World Programme is for all countries and areas to agree on a set of accepted international principles and recommendations governing the conduct of censuses and to disseminate census results in a timely manner. Within the broad domain of national accounts and basic economic statistics, the priorities are i) implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts (SNA), ii) implementation of the revised recommendations in areas of industry statistics, international trade statistics, distributive trade statistics, and tourism statistics, and iii) implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA).

UNSD also secured donor funding for the improvement of the MDG indicators. Through its regular programme and the donor funded projects UNSD will continue to assist developing countries with capacity development trainings in the areas of MDG indicators, and monitoring of MDGs particularly in view of the 2015 deadline for the Millennium Development Goals.
